

The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1887.

Township Limitations.

In an article on modern governments, Herbert Spencer some months ago, vigorously attacked what he was pleased to style their "paternal" character. To his mind government should have as little as possible to do with commercial business, leaving that to the enterprise of individuals.

To the average man theories are but convenient garments to be exchanged as occasion may require. In hard times he is a vigorous opponent of paternal government, because of its expensive character. When the commercial signs set fair, hopes run high, and real estate is booming, he esteems his taxes as but trifles, and goes in for the old flag, and a big appropriation. No doubt either position has its advantages. In good hands large powers may be wisely entrusted; but these are times when nothing can save the State but the interposition of a hard Providence. The "hundredth" man however cares for none of these things. He knows what are his wants and asks only to have them expeditiously supplied. The unfortunate office holder is the autocrat to whom he applies and woe betide him, if he shuffles or shows a disposition to shirk the responsibilities of his position. Nothing but immediate and thorough compliance can demonstrate his capacity and usefulness.

Yet there is much to excuse the performance of even necessary duties. The limitations of laws, particularly in townships, are often vexatious and destructive of progress. Powers freely granted to cities are denied to the smaller municipalities. It is often necessary to open streets and no authority exists save in the cumbersome machinery of supervisors of highway, with disproportionate power resting in a minority of property owners to block the progress of the work. Streets cannot be paved or sidewalks laid without the application of property owners who obstinately refuse to spend a dollar to promote the convenience of their neighbors. Let a nuisance exist in the streets, a notice from the township committee procures its removal; but in a few weeks it asserts its old evil character and there is no power to fine, only an appeal to the courts. Railroads plan unsightly obstructions in the streets, refuse to build street bridges, and neglect to protect their carmen with proper walks, still there is no remedy. While legislators quarrel over political offices, business waits.

There is no denying the fact, that township law is antiquated, ill-adapted to its purpose, and full of inconsistencies. Yet were there no such difficulties, were the law as perfect as human wisdom could make it, there would still be need of better effort.

Many complain of the lack of sidewalks when a moderate expenditure of money (not half the cost) would secure it. The money, given, and in winter, the icy condition of the pavements, is the cause of vigorous protests upon the part of pedestrians. Yet the sidewalks are by law entirely under the care of property owners, with no power inhering in the Township Committee either to repair, clean them, or compel proper care on the part of individuals.

No doubt bold men may exercise powers not strictly granted by legislative enactment, but such action is apt to recoil with dangerous force upon the head of the usurper.

The chief objection to a paternal government is that it limits the individual effort. The average man needs to limit his demands, curtail his complaints, and increase his generosity. Public spirit is for the many, charity for the few.

The Glen Ridge Club Concert.

The concert of Wednesday evening under the auspices of the Glen Ridge Club was in all respects a brilliant affair. The concert was the ninth entertainment of the season of 1886-7. About eighty people, most of them in evening dress, were present, and evinced their appreciation by frequent applause. It seems almost invidious to select from a performance of such general excellence any parts for special commendation, but justice would not be done to the occasion were mention omitted of Miss Murray's exquisite rendering of the solo "My Mother Bids Me," and the charming little ballad "Somebody." It is rare that such fine execution is combined with such perfect simplicity as was shown in those songs.

Luzzia's "Are Maria" was also finely sung by Miss Russell and the "Arrow Song," by Mr. Harper was a gem. These entertainments are becoming one of the distinctive features of the Club, combining, as they do, all good points of parlor concerts, with the greater comfort afforded by the commodious rooms of the Club. It is

hoped by many of the Club members, that by another year, the Club will be in possession of a still larger room, which will be devoted to these entertainments, and will render possible performances of a nature, and on a scale, impossible with the present accommodations. But the Club, though progressive, is conservative, and remembers that it must creep before it walks, and until, with the most careful selection, a sufficient number of congenial members can be added, to warrant a further enlargement, it will content itself with having the most beautiful home of any club of its size in the State.

An Algerian Wedding.

A marriage celebration in Algeria is an interesting relic of ancient customs. The bridegroom goes to bring the bride, and the guests assembled on the side of the house will wait for his return. Soon the sound of pipes is heard coming from the summit of some neighboring hill, and the marriage procession approaches the bridegroom's house. The pipes always come first in the procession, then the bride, muffled up in a veil, riding a mule led by her lover. Then comes a lay of gorgeously dressed dervises, smoking with silver ornaments, and when the friends of the bride follow. The procession stops in front of the bridegroom's house, and the girl's friends line both sides of the pathway. The pipes march off on one side, while the bridegroom lifts the girl from the mule and holds her in his arms. The girl's friends thereupon throw earth at the bridegroom when he hurries forward and carries her over the threshold of his house. Those about the door beat him with olive-branches, amid much laughter.

In the evening on such occasions, the pipes and drummers are called in, and the women dance, two at a time, facing each other; nor does a couple desist until, panting and exhausted, they step aside to make room for another. The dance has great energy of movement, though the steps are small and changes of position slight, the dancers only circling round occasionally. But they swing their bodies about with an astonishing energy and suppleness. As leaves flutter before the gale, so do they vibrate to the music; they shiver and tremble; they extend quivering arms, wave veils, and their minds seem lost in the abandon and frenzy of the dance, while the other women, looking on, encourage by their high, piercing, trilling cries, which add to the noise of the pipes and drums.—*Brooklyn Magazine.*

The Free Libraries of Paris.

In the facilities which it affords for evening instruction, and the system of its free libraries, Paris is perhaps unequalled. The democratization of literature has in no town reached such a height. Not only has the municipal council established a free library in every quarter of the city, adapted to the special requirements of the locality, but this has been supplemented with technical instruction and lectures to direct the minds of the readers into profitable channels. While these libraries may be taken advantage of by every one without respect of station, the council always keeps before it as the prime consideration the moral and intellectual elevation of the working and industrial classes. Though not long in force, yet the system has been an enormous success and cannot but lead to good results in the future. Of all towns in the world Paris has most public libraries. Without counting the National Library—the largest in existence, with three million volumes, about as many prints and engravings, and a hundred thousand manuscripts, without counting the Mazarin with three hundred thousand volumes, the Sainte Genevieve with one hundred and sixty-three thousand, the Arsenal with three hundred fifty thousand, the Town Library, full of nothing but books on the history of Paris and the Revolution, or the library of Industrial Arts, the Beaux Arts, the Sorbonne, or the Chamber of Commerce, all of which are open daily to the public, and leaving aside also such special libraries as that of the schools of medicine and law, there are in Paris fifty-three public libraries managed directly by the town council, and eighteen popular semi-subscription libraries subventioned by the town.

Rosa Bonheur is now a little stout lady of masculine appearance; her hair is gray in places and parted on one side, and she has her hair black eyes, slightly marked features, and a wonderfully resilient will. She wears a plain black silk skirt, with a vest and jacket of black velvet and white linen collar and cuffs. She is a pleasant little story concerning the painting of her famous picture of the "Horse Fair." She went every day to the Fair to paint, and was one day working, and thinking only of her work, when a horse's head appeared over her shoulder, engaged seemingly in examining her picture. She merely looked

round, she says, "to see my admirer, the horse; but alas! it was too late—he had stepped into my box of colors, and I suppose, taking fright at my scream of dismay, he gave one bound ahead, overturned the easel, and stepped on my canvas, tearing a hole right through the centre of my cherished piece of work. Owing to the friendliness of that horse, I had all my work to do to get over again."

Ezekiel Hayes, the great grandfather of the President, was a successful mechanic in Connecticut, and kept a number of apprentices. It is said that sometimes, like apprentices in all ages, they felt that they had long work and short rations. At one time a new cheese was put on the table whole. It stood uncut for a day or two, Hayes saying at each meal, "that is a nice looking cheese. It is a pity to cut it." The boys thought this was growing ridiculous, and planned to show their sentiments. The blacksmith had one day got a bar of iron nicely heated, and laid it across the iron anvil to be cut the proper lengths. The boys, with chisel and sledges, were to cut it off. But no hand was raised. Hayes asked why they did not "strike." One of them replied: "That is such a nice bar of iron; it would be a pity to cut it." Hayes quickly saw the point, and shouted, with a laugh, "Strike! boys, strike! the cheese shall be cut!"

It is the greatest part of our business, among with our home duties, and of our life, to be able to resist the temptation of violence that may come in our way. In promoting the welfare of others, we must not; we must devote to it earnest thought, constant care and zealous endeavor.

KEEP IT TO YOURSELF.—You have trouble—your feeling are injured, your husband is unkind, your wife fretting, your home is not pleasant, your friends do not treat you fairly, things in general do not move pleasantly. Well, what of it? A smouldering fire can be found and extinguished; but when the coals are scattered, who can pick them up? Bury your sorrow. The place for sad and distressing things is under the ground. A cut finger is never benefited by pulling off the plaster and exposing it to somebody's eyes. Tie it up and let it alone. Charity covereth a multitude of sins. Things thus covered are often cured without a scar, but once published and confidence to meddling friends there is no end to the trouble they may cause. Keep it to yourself. Troubles are transient, and when a sorrow is headed and passed, what a comfort it is to say:—"No one ever knew it until the trouble was all over."

A Bicycle Rider's Training.

When asked what course of training a bicycle rider undergoes a prominent bicyclist said:—"In our training we take plenty of hard exercise and eat nothing but light food. It is not safe to eat any kind of vegetables or to drink coffee. Rare beef, beef tail, oatmeal gruel, raw oysters and rare eggs constitute most of our diet. In a long race the second and third days are the hardest. Then the muscles of the ankles and legs are all contracting with the continued short leg motion. At the last of a race we ride a much shorter wheel than when we began. Warm baths and dry rubbing, followed by liniment baths, keep us up during the race. A crowd and the excitement has much to do with the speed. People and applause make fast riding."

"After the race our legs are short and stiff and it takes at least two weeks to get back to one's natural condition and shape. The exercise is all in the lower parts of the legs and back. Our arms are used, but not strengthened much. A fifty mile race is more tiresome, but not as lasting in its effects."—*New York Journal.*

Natural Gas a Nuisance in 1827. In 1827 there lived in Washington county a farmer by the name of Cook, an uncle of the famous Gen. Anson G. Cook, the present secretary of the United States senate. McCook's farm was situated on the old national pike, eight or ten miles out of Brownsville. In attempting to dig a well a short distance back from the pike, he struck a large flow of natural gas. This by accident became ignited, and the flame it gave forth scared the horses passing on the pike and many runaways occurred. This went on for some time until the authorities in that section passed an ordinance stigmatizing it as a nuisance and compelling McCook to suppress it as such, which he did. Thus the citizens of Pittsburgh now consider the greatest discovery of the nineteenth century, just half a century ago the citizens of Washington county considered the greatest nuisance.—*Pittsburgh Times.*

He Thought Well of Himself.

Visitor—Are you papa's boy?
Sonny—Yes, sir.
Visitor—Are you mamma's boy?
Sonny—Yes, sir.
Visitor—But how can you be papa's boy and mamma's at the same time?
Sonny (after a pause)—Can't a pretty, nice carriage have two horses?—*Boston Beacon.*

An Inspiring Concerto. Boston Herald.—Do not think the allegro movement of that concerto by Beethoven most inspiring? Friend from the West—Stunning! And wasn't Mr. Beethoven himself perfectly elegant! Such lovely whiskers. I do wish he'd play again!—*Boston Beacon.*

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